



MOST REVEREND LEONARD P. BLAIR
ARCHBISHOP OF HARTFORD

DECREE

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

This decree concerns the merger of Saint Patrick Parish in Waterbury, Connecticut, and Saint Joseph Parish in Waterbury, Connecticut, and the conferral of the title of “Saint Blaise” to the newly created parish.

Whereas, **Saint Patrick Parish** was established as territorial parish on February 1, 1880, from the territory of Immaculate Conception Church, to serve Catholics in the southwest part of Waterbury, and **Saint Joseph Parish** was established as an ethnic parish on March 28, 1894, to serve the Lithuanian immigrants who had created a Waterbury enclave in the 1880s and who had attended Mass at Saint Patrick in Waterbury;

Whereas, the parishes were linked on September 9, 2002, and currently share a pastor;

Whereas, the two parishes are located in the same municipality, sharing the same School system and socio-economic composition;

Whereas, the two parishes share events, programs, and one bulletin, as well as other activities related to the religious education program;

Whereas, the finances and pastoral and material resources of the two parishes are more or less similar so that when merged they will be strengthened for the mission of evangelization in the Hartford Vicariate;

Whereas, the parishioners who have domicile and quasi-domicile within the parishes attend the different liturgical services at either Saint Patrick Parish and Saint Joseph Parish;

Whereas, the merger of the parishes would allow the parish that would result from the merger to better administer personnel, finances, and material resources and thus facilitate the mission of the Church in the territory currently served by two parishes;

Whereas, the merger of parishes would offer expanded services and opportunities for spiritual growth to the parishioners of the currently existing parishes while eliminating inefficient and counterproductive duplication of services;

Whereas, from the inception of the Pastoral Planning Process, the current pastor has consulted the lay leadership, that is, Finance Councils, Pastoral Councils, and the parishioners, and informed them of the advantages of a merged entity;

Whereas, the parishes are expanding due to changes in demographics and would cater to the spiritual needs of the parishioners more effectively if they are merged;

Whereas the merger of the parishes would allow for a Mass schedule which would encourage fuller participation in the liturgy;

Whereas, only the Diocesan Bishop can significantly alter a parish in his jurisdiction according to the prescriptions of c. 515 §2 of the Code of Canon Law; and in accordance with prescriptions of c. 121, having judged that sufficient just causes are present and that the good of souls will not thereby be impaired, and having heard the parishioners of both parishes through parish leadership with input from the parishes at large, having received the recommendation of the Pastoral Planning Committee, which reviewed the recommendations of the parishes party to this decree, and under the careful direction of the Vicar for Pastoral Planning, and having consulted the Presbyteral Council on May 1, 2017, in accordance with c. 515 §2,

THEREFORE, I hereby DECREE that:

The territorial Parish of Saint Patrick and the ethnic Parish of Saint Joseph are to be merged and from the merger form a new parish to be named Saint Blaise Parish in Waterbury, with two church buildings: Saint Patrick Church and Saint Joseph Church in Waterbury, Connecticut.

The merger is an effort to strengthen the preaching of the Gospel and to ensure the vitality of parish life in the Waterbury Vicariate, with concern for the best stewardship of resources and the right of the People of God to receive assistance from the Church, especially the Word of God, spiritual sustenance and the sacraments. Saint Patrick Parish and Saint Joseph Parish, as separate juridic entities, will cease to exist. All Catholics having membership of the extinct parishes are hereby considered members of Saint Blaise Parish and, as such, are entrusted to the care of one pastor. The territory of Saint Blaise shall comprise of the territory of the former Saint Patrick Parish, including all Catholics who belonged to the ethnic parish of Saint Joseph. The rich legacies and histories of Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph Parish will be promoted and honored at Saint Blaise Parish. Together, all of the parishioners are encouraged to unite with the newly merged parish through the union with Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The intentions of the founders and donors regarding the temporal goods and patrimonial rights proper to the extinct Parish of Saint Patrick and the extinct Parish of Saint Joseph, as well as the acquired rights, shall be honored and respected. In addition, the temporal goods, patrimonial rights, and the obligations of each of the extinct parishes shall be assumed by Saint Blaise Parish, in accordance with the norm of law (c. 121).

All the parish and sacrament records of the extinct Parish of Saint Patrick and the extinct Parish of Saint Joseph are to be properly preserved and safeguarded in the premises of Saint Patrick Church in Waterbury, in accordance with the norm of law (cc. 535 §§1-5).

This decree becomes effective June 29th, 2017, prior to which the substance of it is to be communicated to parishioners at the aforementioned parishes, including the display in an appropriate place so that parishioners can read it as they enter or exit the Church. It will also be available on the website, *stewardsfortomorrow.org*. Canonical recourse may be made within the peremptory time limit of ten (10) business days from the legitimate notification of the decree and in accordance with the norm of law (c. 1734 §2).

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on the 2nd day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2017.



Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford



Reverend Ryan M. Lerner
Chancellor